

## MINUTES ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC  
January 6, 2003

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of the Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Mayor Parrott and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller  
Council Member Mildred A. Council  
Council Member Ray Craft  
Council Member Pat Dunn  
Council Member Rose H. Glover  
Council Member Chip Little  
Marvin W. Davis, City Manager  
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk  
David A. Holec, City Attorney

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Craft to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Craft to approve all the items under the consent agenda as listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Minutes of the November 21, December 5, December 9, and December 12, 2002 City Council meetings
- (2) Resolution accepting dedication of public rights-of-way and easements shown on or implied by the final plat of Wyngate, Section 2, Phase 2 (Resolution No. 03-01)
- (3) Encroachment agreements with Pitt County Memorial Hospital
  - a. To place telecommunication conduit for fiber optic across W.H. Smith Boulevard between the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Dickinson Avenue (Contract No. 1230)
  - b. To place fiber optic cable along West Arlington Boulevard between the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Hemby Lane (Contract No. 1231)

### ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A TAXICAB FRANCHISE FOR TIMOTHY WAYNE HARRIS (GRIFTON TAXI) DBA A TO B DELIVERY AND TAXI) – NO ACTION TAKEN

City Manager Davis introduced the next item, which was a request for a taxicab franchise for Timothy Wayne Harris (Grifton Taxi) d/b/a A to B Delivery and Taxi.

City Attorney Dave Holec stated that the Police Department has reviewed the criminal record of the petitioner, and based on the report, it finds reasons to object to granting of the franchise. The Planning Department reviewed the proposed location for storage and noted that the proposed location would not be in compliance with the zoning ordinance. Thus, they recommended that the franchise not be granted. The Financial Services Department has reviewed the information and found that there were outstanding taxes and/or fees that needed to be addressed. That has been taken care of by the applicant. Anytime there is a franchise, it requires two approvals by the City Council and a public hearing. Even if the Council does not vote on this tonight, a public hearing is still needed. The City Attorney reviewed the process for granting a franchise.

No action was taken by City Council on this franchise.

#### DISCUSSION ON INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES

Mayor Parrott stated that a great deal of information has been provided at the informational workshops on departmental services, and having them was a very good idea that was brought up by Council Member Little.

Council Members Dunn and Craft stated that the meetings were helpful, successful, enlightening and informative.

#### PRESENTATION ON WEED AND SEED RECERTIFICATION AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Mr. Doug Tyson of Weed and Seed defined Weed and Seed as being a comprehensive and coordinated multi-agency approach to law enforcement and community revitalization. The first task of weeding is accomplished by utilizing resources of criminal justice systems including intensive law enforcement efforts to remove and incapacitate violence, criminals, and drug traffickers from target neighborhoods and housing developments. The second task is seeding, which restores communities by providing broad economic and social opportunity in cooperation with other federal, state, and local agencies along with public and private organizations and community groups. The US Department of Justice implemented Operation Weed and Seed to address violent crimes, gang activities, drug use, and drug trafficking in the neighborhoods hardest hit by violence and eroding social and economic stabilities. The comprehensive strategies assist communities in bringing together people and resources to prevent and control crime and to control the overall quality of life. A strategy stresses collaboration, coordination and community participation. The initiative is unique in that communities use weed and seed strategies to develop and undertake efforts tailored to the issue needed and concerns of each individual neighborhood. The City of Greenville was officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in 1997. This strategy has provided more than \$875,000 over a period of five years to the residents of West Greenville. The funds were used for employment, programs such as afterschool, summer camp for youth, computer classes for adult and youth, cultural activities such as dance, art, music, a fitness center at the Eppes Recreation Center facility, educational instruction, field trips, supplies for the program and recreation center and training for mentors phased in computers and buying computers. The Weed and Seed Program collaborated with Eppes Middle School in the past to provide financial and instructional support for students. The students have been able to receive an internship at the site. Some were paid and some were not.

Pitt County Schools hires coop students and pays them minimum wage. The Pitt County Juvenile Services allows juveniles to do community service at the Weed and Seed center. Weed and Seed also provides youth volunteers at Greenville Community Shelter, Inc. and the North Carolina food bank. After the flood, some space was provided for the Genesis Daycare Treatment Program. They worked with such agencies as the Little Willie Center, West Greenville Community Development Corporation, Handy Daycare Center, Tiffany's Daycare Center, and Mrs. Peaches' Daycare Center. They also worked with the City of Greenville Police Department and PICASO to provide HIV workshops, provide senior citizens with gift/food boxes for six months, to provide parent training sessions for workfirst parents whose children attend afterschool and tutorial programs.

Mr. Tyson concluded by stating that Weed and Seed presently collaborates with Pitt County, Pitt Community College, continuing education, Job Link and East Carolina University volunteers. At the present, the programs that are being offered include afterschool tutorial, art, dance, computer education, and adult basic skills. The recertification application was submitted and it is hoped that Weed and Seed will hear from it by the end of February. He asked the City Council to not let this program die.

Mayor Parrott thanked Mr. Tyson for appearing before the Council to provide information and stated that the elected officials look forward to hearing from the recertification.

#### UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON STANTONSBURG ROAD/TENTH STREET CONNECTOR

City Manager Davis stated that the Tenth Street connector is not in the TIP for the next 7 years. Preliminary planning was included for 2004. In meetings with the NCDOT officials, efforts have been made for this thoroughfare to be extended or the gap to be closed in from Tenth Street to Farmville Boulevard with grade separation at the railroad track so that it would not inhibit traffic. NCDOT has estimated the cost to be \$16.6 million, which includes right-of-way acquisition and construction. NCDOT has suggested that if the City can find the funds for the right-of-way locally, then they would make a diligent search to find the funds for construction of the facility, which is \$10.6 million. There have also been discussions with people who might be interested in partnering with the City and providing for the right-of-way costs. Those discussions have been beneficial to date. NCDOT also said they would turn over to the City the planning, engineering, design and the environmental permits for the corridor. If NCDOT turns it over to the City, it shows their confidence in the staff, people and organizations in the City of Greenville. The City can keep track of the project to assure that it is moving on a steady basis and that it can be designed sensitive to this community. If the City does pay for the cost of the design, that would be netted out against the right-of-way cost. The City would try to have partners locally to share the right-of-way cost and would look for an agreement with those partners. Staff is having extensive discussions with NCDOT.

The City Manager stated that this is an update to let the Council know where staff is on this issue. Staff will try to work to get an agreement and bring it back. The State is updating its Transportation Improvement Program. The MPO priorities are supposed to be to the State by March 1 and then approved by the NCDOT Board by June. Time is of the essence to get it in the State plan now.

Mayor Parrott stated that the street connector is important to everyone in the community. It is important to the medical center in getting people from the city, county and adjoining counties to the medical center by getting people there without being interrupted by the train. It is important to West Greenville as they try to develop the corridor that some infrastructure be developed along the corridor for commercial establishments that could help the community. It is important to the City because it opens up a gateway from the western part of the county. It is important to the university in that it gives a gateway into the university. It is planned to make this a very attractive entrance into the city with landscaping. Some great partnerships have been formed with this project. The Department of Transportation has been very generous to turn over the planning of the road to the City of Greenville.

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CITY OF GREENVILLE FINANCIAL POLICY

City Manager Davis gave an overview of the City's financial policy (Document No. 29) and stated that the budget cycle will start in February. The financial policy, adopted in 1993, describes the general function areas of the city. It deals with what the revenue policy of the city should be, how those should be estimated, the various service charges of the city and the general way they should be set, how the city's operating budget policy should be carried out, how debt and debt financing should be made, how funds for the city should be accounted for, the accounting policy, and how capital improvements should be looked at and tied to ongoing activities.

Council Member Little questioned the amount the City could borrow and was informed by Ms. Demery, Financial Services Director, that the amount is based on assessed valuation. The City has the ability to incur \$180 million in debt; however, it now owes \$35 million. Any debt has to be approved by the Local Government Commission. The City also has to look at its ability to pay back the debt.

Upon being asked about the City maintaining its bond rating, Ms. Demery stated that with the exception of Cary, there are no cities the size of Greenville that have a AAA rating. That would be the next level the City would go to. The City has an AA3 rating with Moody's. The City could move to AA2 or AA1 if the economy changed substantially. For a city the size of Greenville, AA is an outstanding rating.

## REVIEW OF JANUARY 9, 2003 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the items on the January 9, 2003 City Council agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

## COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Glover stated that a bus is leaving tomorrow morning at 5:15 to take people to see Frank Ballance be sworn in.

Council Member Glover stated that Weed and Seed has gotten millions of dollars for the City of Greenville. The Weed and Seed Program has been collaborating with the US Attorney's Office trying to have more people here to help crime and drugs. From that, the east has received three

ATF members in Greenville and two people in the US Attorney's Office. The District Attorney has been working closely with Weed and Seed. Glenn Perry will probably be the prosecutor for those cases. They have all been working to make the program work. She asked that the Council work as hard to make it work as other communities because Greenville cannot afford to lose the Weed and Seed Program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller stated that the incident at the Town Common was a tragedy. He watched the local Fire/Rescue Department diligently work the river, along with numerous other agencies. The Salvation Army has been feeding the people. He thanked the Chief of Fire/Rescue and the entire Department.

Council Member Council stated that Greenville Utilities Commission did a fine job training 4-Hers about electricity. She is looking forward to going to the electric congress. The 4-H Club gained four new members tonight.

Council Member Council wished everyone a happy new year.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

##### Greenville Utilities Commission Action to Establish a Joint Committee to Discuss the Sale of the Greenville Utilities Commission Main Building

City Manager Davis stated that Greenville Utilities has asked that an informal committee be established between the Greenville Utilities Commission Chair and Manager, the Mayor, and the City Manager regarding the sale of the Greenville Utilities Commission administrative building.

##### Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Activities

City Manager Davis distributed a listing of the activities that will occur on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

#### ADJOURN

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Little to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC  
City Clerk